NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY | AT RALEIGH

School of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Department of Crop Science
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June 26, 1972

MEMORANDUM TO: Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students in SALS

FROM: J. A. Weybrew

SUBJECT: Request for Volunteers to Serve on Smoking Panel

Do cigarettes all taste alike to you? If not, we need your special talents on our smoking panel. (But even if you are uncertain about your ability to taste differences, we still may be able to "train" your palate to distinguish among imposed differences in kind and intensity of flavors.)

U. S. flue-cured tobacco continues to be in demand the world over because of the superior flavor it imparts to the smoke of cigarettes. But changes in production methods, some of which conceivably could alter flavor, are in the offering. The dwindling labor supply will force mechanization and, to accommodate these machines, production practices and especially curing methods will be modified. To date, no analytical laboratory is capable of determining the flavor quality of a tobacco; about 2/3 of the 1200 compounds that have been identified in smoke do not occur in the tobacco but are generated during the smoking process. Furthermore, none of the analyzable constituents of smoke itself can be firmly correlated with the smoker's taste impression. Thus it becomes necessary to rely on a smokers panel for the flavor evaluation of experimental tobaccos.

Though uncompensated, participation on the smokers panel is a fully sanctioned activity. We anticipate that your participation would require no more than 30 minutes per week on the average, and we will attempt to schedule you so as to interfere minimally with your regular duties.

Room 206, Agronomy Headhouse (the small two-story brick building behind Williams Hall) has been refurbished as the Smoking Laboratory. We invite you to visit this new facility (at the head of the stairs, turn right -- the Laboratory is at the end of the hall). While there, Mr. Fawky Abdallah, who will be supervising the testing, will be pleased to answer your questions and to outline the testing procedures. Before leaving, we would hope that you would have been persuaded to volunteer your services on the panel.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/glnm0000